

APPLICANTS FOR PENSIONS—REJECTED.

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY,

TRANSMITTING

A list of the names of persons, who have applied for pensions, whose claims have been rejected.

DECEMBER 13, 1842.

Read, and laid upon the table.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *December 12, 1842.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit, in obedience to the joint resolution of Congress dated May 29, 1830, a letter from the Commissioner of Pensions, dated this day, enclosing a list of the names of persons who have applied for relief under the navy pension laws, and whose claims have been rejected, and the reasons for rejecting the same.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. P. UPSHUR.

HON. JOHN WHITE,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PENSION OFFICE, *December 12, 1842.*

SIR: In conformity with the joint resolution of Congress, passed at the first session of the 21st Congress, No. 7, dated 29th May, 1830, in relation to applications for pensions, I enclose herewith a list of persons who have applied for navy pensions during the present year, and whose claims have been rejected, because there is no provision by law for such cases, or because, under the rules of evidence adopted by the Department, they are excluded from the benefits of the navy pension laws. The reason for rejecting each claim is given in the column of remarks, and is set opposite the name of the applicant. As the resolution requires such a list only of those who in the opinion of the Department ought to be placed on the pension list, and as I have been and am still at a loss to determine what particular cases were intended to be recommended to the favorable consideration of Congress, I have declined expressing any opinion as to the merits of any case, and merely state the facts as to the cause of rejection, believing that

the list, with the remarks subjoined to each case, will afford the best means of attaining the object which Congress had in view in passing the resolution. It is proper for me to say what the rule of evidence is under which several claimants have been excluded from the benefits of the navy pension laws. If a claimant alleges to have been wounded in action, or otherwise disabled, the testimony of some commissioned officer, showing how, when, and where the disability originated, is deemed indispensable; and if the alleged injury arose more than twenty-five years since, such proof is not considered sufficient, unless the official returns in one of the public offices confirm the allegations of the claimant.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. L. EDWARDS,

Commissioner of Pensions.

Hon. A. P. UPSHUR,

Secretary of the Navy.

A list of the names of persons who have applied for relief under the navy pension laws, and whose claims have been rejected, and the reasons for rejecting the same.

Names of applicants.	Rank.	Reasons for rejection.
<i>Invalids.</i>		
Zachariah Biddison -	Ordinary seaman -	Claims for a wound alleged to have been received in 1815, more than 25 years since; and there is no record proof that he was disabled while in the service.*
John Ellis -	Ordinary seaman -	It did not appear from his own statement that he was ever wounded or disabled while in service.
Jesse L. Hibbs -	Sergeant of marines -	Claims for a wound alleged to have been received in 1814, more than 25 years since, and no proof of his having been wounded can be found on any official return.*
Roderick Morley -	Sergeant of marines -	Claims for a wound alleged to have been received in 1800.
Levi Somerset -	Seaman -	Claims for a wound alleged to have been received after the battle on Lake Erie, in the last war.
Isaac Westover -	Cockswain -	Claims for a wound alleged to have been received during the Tripolitan war, more than twenty-five years since.
<i>Children.</i>		
The children of Eli Brown -	Sailingmaster -	Their father did not die in service. Case not provided for.
William King, son of Thomas King.	Marine -	The law granting pensions to children was repealed in 1841, and his father died in 1842.
<i>Widows.</i>		
Mary M. Caswell, widow of Daniel Caswell.	Carpenter -	Her husband did not die of any disorder contracted in the line of his duty. He died of apoplexy. Case not provided for.
Rebecca Dougherty, widow of James Dougherty.	Corporal of marines -	Her husband did not die in service. Case not provided for.
Abigail Fuller, formerly the widow of Timothy Newman.	Master commandant -	The children of Timothy Newman have already received the pension to which their mother would have been entitled if she had not married a second time.

* By a rule of the Navy Department, to which we adhere in the adjudication of invalid navy claims, a pension cannot be granted in any case where the alleged disability has existed more than twenty-five years, unless the claimant's name appears among the wounded on some official return.

J. L. EDWARDS,
Commissioner of Pensions.

PENSION OFFICE, *December 12, 1842.*

